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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
HOWARD J. SMITH & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD
[AU/AU]; 5 Anthlin Court, Templestowe, Victoria 3106
(AU).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SMITH, Howard, J.
[NZ/AU]; 5 Anthlin Court, Templestowe, Victoria 3106
(AU).

(74) Agent: PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK; 367
Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).

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(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING VIRAL INFECTIONS

(57) Abstract: A method of pharmaceutical therapy comprising the co-administration of any form of interferon or any derivative thereof with a low dose of ribavirin (less than 400 mg /day or less than 6 mg/kg/day), or related compound, where the ribavirin or related compound provides a clinically effective blood level in the portal circulation but a less than clinically effective blood level in the peripheral circulation, to thereby provide a systemic effect of interferon throughout the body but a selective effect of ribavirin in the liver. The method also provides for the co-administration of any form of interferon or any derivative thereof with a high dose of ribavirin (preferably from 400-800 mg/day), or related compound, where the ribavirin or related compound is administered as a slow-release formulation such that it also provides a sustained virologic response in a patient and reduced side effects. The method also provides for the co-administration of an antioxidant or other membrane protective agent with both the interferon and ribavirin such that the hepatoprotective activity of the antioxidant or other membrane protective agent complements the virucidal effect of the interferon and ribavirin. The antioxidant or other membrane protective agent may be administered as a systemic or a low-dose, slow-release, liver-selective formulation.

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